(a) whether State Governments have been issued any advice or directions on the issue of vehicles transporting chemical substances or hazardous materials;

(b) if so, the details of the directions in this regard;

(c) whether Government have considered this subject; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The transportation of chemical substances or hazardous material is governed by Rules 129 to 137 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 which were brought into force from 1st July, 1989 and slightly amended with effect from 26.3.93. The changes are always brought to the notice of all concerned including the State Governments. The State Governments are also addressed from time to time to strictly enforce these provisions.

Lack of Infrastructural Facility at Paradip Port for Cargo Movement

3787. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of sufficient infrastructural facilities, the cargo movement in Paradip Port of Orissa is less than Visakhapatnam and Calcutta and hence, the producers of Steel, Ferro Alloys etc. have to depend on Visakhapatnam and Calcutta; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Surface Transport is having any proposal to develop Paradip Port; if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As the volume of cargo handled at any port depends on the capacity available and also traffic offering, the Ports of Calcutta and Visakhapatnam handle larger volume of cargo compared to Paradip. Choice of Port by importers and exporters are influenced by a number of factors other than availability of infrastructural facilities.

(b) (i) Construction of multipurpose cargo berth is nearing completion.

(ii) A major project for provision of high capacity mechanised coal handling facilities is under implementation.

(iii) An outlay of Rs. 77.93 crores has been provided in the Annual Plan for Paradip Port which; interalia, includes;

(i) Extension of West Quay

(ii) Second Multipurpose Cargo Berth

(iii) Oil Berth includng reception facilities.

Reimbursement of Excess amount to Karnataka for Maintenance of National Highways

3788. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount Government of Karnataka has incurred on the maintenance of national highways in the State, in excess of the allocations during 1990-91, 1991.92 and 1992.93;

(b) whether the excess expenditure incurred by the Government of Karnataka over and above the allocations, has been agreed to be reimbursed; and

(c) if so, why the amount has not been reimbursed to the Government of Karnataka so far and by when it is likely to be reimbursed?